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SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Letter dated 19 December 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Bulgaria and Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration on the Development of Cooperation between the Republic of Bulgaria and Georgia, signed by the President of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze and the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr. Peter Stoyanov, on 15 December 1997, during President Shevardnadze's official visit to Sofia.

May we ask your kind assistance in circulating the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 38, 81 and 97.

(Signed) Philip DIMITROV
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Bulgaria
to the United Nations

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of
Georgia to the United Nations

ANNEX

[Original: Russian]

Declaration on the development of relations between Georgia and Bulgaria signed on 15 December 1997

Georgia and Bulgaria, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties",

Guided by the desire to develop a comprehensive partnership between the two States based on the fundamental principles of the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between Georgia and Bulgaria signed on 19 January 1995,

Expressing their readiness to strengthen further the historical ties and traditional friendly relations between the two nations,

Recognizing the need to develop relations between the two States on the basis of the principles of democracy, freedom, solidarity and respect for human rights,

Aiming to strengthen peace and security in Europe and throughout the world,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the concluding documents of the Budapest and Lisbon Summits and other documents of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE),

Make the following declaration:

1. The Parties are convinced that cooperation based on the principles of equality, independence, mutual assistance, mutual benefit and respect for each other's sovereignty will provide the States with broad possibilities for the solution of the problems which they face in achieving a qualitatively new level of partnership.

2. The Parties have agreed to open a Bulgarian embassy in Tbilisi, a Georgian embassy in Sofia, a Bulgarian Consulate-General in Poti and a Georgian Consulate-General in Burgas.

3. The Parties declare their readiness to intensify regular consultations between the foreign policy departments of the two countries on issues of bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation.

The Parties will encourage active working contacts within the framework of the United Nations, OSCE and other international organizations, exchanging information and opinions on issues of mutual interest.

4. Bulgaria believes that the restoration of the territorial integrity of Georgia is an indispensable condition for strengthening peace, stability and security in the Caucasus and fully supports the efforts of Georgia to settle this vitally important and nationally significant issue.

5. The Parties will continue to support each other in terms of integration into European political and economic structures with a view to achieving their foreign policy objectives. Bulgaria supports Georgia's desire to become a full member of the Council of Europe and the World Trade Organization.

6. The Parties attach exceptional importance to strengthening the climate of trust and security in Europe. Both Parties commend cooperation between the States within the framework of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council.

Georgia respects the sovereign right of each country to choose the means of ensuring its national security, including entry into military and political alliances.

In this regard, the Parties stress the need for cooperation on international security issues, including the military and technical field. Georgia requests Bulgarian assistance in establishing, developing and training subunits specializing in border protection.

7. The Parties have agreed to cooperate actively in combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the smuggling of weapons and ammunition and of explosive, toxic and radioactive materials, organized crime, illegal migration and terrorism.

8. The Parties confirm their interest in increasing the effectiveness of Black Sea economic cooperation by carrying out specific projects and expanding multilateral trade and economic cooperation on the basis of the transformation of the Black Sea economic cooperation alliance into a regional economic organization.

9. The Parties subscribe to the idea of cooperation between the Baltic and Black Sea countries and express their readiness for such cooperation with a view to establishing closer ties between the two European regions.

10. The Parties express their satisfaction at the pace of development of bilateral trade and economic cooperation, and consider it necessary to undertake measures to bring about an intensification of these processes.

11. The Parties recognize that the implementation of the Memorandum of the Burgas meeting of Ministers of Transport by putting into effect the idea of a link with the European transport systems and the Transport Corridor: Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA) programme will contribute to the process of full-scale economic integration into the Eurasian area.

The Parties consider the "Corridor VIII-Asia" transcontinental link to be a project of global significance, and attach particular importance to the intensification of efforts to carry out measures to implement this project.

The Parties attach special importance to the further development of a Eurasian transport link and a pan-European transport system, and consider it advisable for Georgia to be associated with the work of the existing economic and transport institutions in the Danube region and south-east Europe.

The Parties recognize the need for optimal utilization of their favourable transit possibilities for the transportation of energy resources.

12. The Parties express satisfaction with the operation of the car ferries linking the Georgian maritime ports of Poti and Batumi with the Bulgarian maritime ports of Burgas and Varna as a good example of the practical implementation of the "Corridor VIII-Asia" transcontinental link. They will work actively to create a multilateral transport link by opening a train ferry between Poti and Batumi (Georgia), Varna (Bulgaria) and other Black Sea ports.

13. The Parties will hold regular bilateral and multilateral consultations on questions relating to the implementation of these projects.

14. The Parties fully support the idea of holding a high-level conference of the countries participating in TRACECA and will actively participate in its work.

15. The Parties encourage interparliamentary ties, and also the exchange of experience in the areas of legislative activity and the operation and establishment of democratic institutions.

DONE at Sofia on 15 December 1997, in duplicate in the Georgian and Bulgarian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

The President of Georgia:

(Signed) Eduard SHEVARDNADZE

The President of the Republic of Bulgaria:

(Signed) Petar STOYANOV